

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, January 23, 2012, in the cafeteria of Kickemuit Middle School, 525 Child Street, Warren, RI. The Chairperson, John C. Bento, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:03 PM.

Present: John C. Bento, Chair, Paul Silva, Vice-Chair, William M. O'Dell, Treasurer, Karen A. Lynch, Secretary, Denise R. Arsenault, Diane B. Campbell, Marjorie J. McBride, Susan Rancourt and John P. Saviano; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Pauline A. Silva, Director of Administration and Finance; Mary N. Almeida, Director of Literacy and Title I; Leslie J. Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; and Andrew D. Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ACCOLADES

Retirees

Ida Cabral, Teacher, Hugh Cole School

Michael Carbone, Principal, Kickemuit Middle School

Dianne Davis, Teacher, Kickemuit Middle School

Carol A. Glanville, Teacher, Colt Andrews School

Angela Hawkins, Teacher, Hugh Cole School

Elizabeth McElroy, Teacher, Hugh Cole School

Grace Moreira, Teacher, Guiteras School

Margaret Perrotto, Teacher, Guiteras School

Jacqueline Taylor-Gast, Teacher, Hugh Cole School

Veronica Turner' Teacher, Kickemuit Middle School

Non-Certified Retirees

Joseph Carvalho, Custodian, Hugh Cole School

Constance Labao, Teacher Assistant, Guiteras School

Each Principal spoke about their retirees.

We wish to congratulate one of our Hugh Cole School teachers who recently achieved National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards: Lynn DellaGrotta. National Board Certified Teachers are highly accomplished educators who meet high and rigorous standards. Like board-certified doctors and accountants, teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation,

self-assessment and peer review. We thank Lynn for her commitment to improving her teaching skills. Superintendent Thies added her congratulations and acknowledgement of the tremendous effort by Ms. DellaGrotta, especially considering she gave birth to her first child in April.

The District Holiday Greeting Card, for many years, has been designed by a student, each year from a different school. This year we asked a Mt. Hope High School student to create a design on rather short notice. We would like to show our appreciation to the student with a gift card to Don's Art Shop. A sincere "Thank You" to Madelaine Dennis. Ms. Dennis is also the recent recipient of a Scholastic Art Award.

Mr. Silva left the meeting at 7:25 PM.

We are very proud to recognize a Mt. Hope High School student who has been selected for the 50th Anniversary United States Senate Youth Program:

Audra Pearl Morrow. The United States Senate Youth Program brings the highest-level officials from each branch of government together with two high school students from each of the fifty states during an intensive educational program held in Washington, D.C. The program is merit-based and highly competitive. Each student receives a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship and the week-long trip to Washington, DC in the spring. This program, now in

its fiftieth year, has been fully funded since inception by THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS as part of the Foundations' continuing commitment to preparing young people for citizenship and leadership in our participatory democracy.

We are happy to announce the following Kickemuit Middle School students were selected as RI All State Musicians:

Michael Contente – Junior Orchestra

Brendan Conley – Junior Concert Band

Laura Iacono – Junior Concert Band

Elizabeth Hennen – Junior Concert Band

Alexandra Brassard – Junior Mixed Chorus

Brittany Foster – Junior Mixed Chorus

Rose Pansa – Junior Mixed Chorus

Sara Slusarski – Junior Treble Chorus

Jordan Sousa – Junior Treble Chorus

This is also the largest group of KMS band students to make All State in several years. We are so proud of them all!

Robert Arsenault, Arts and Applied Arts, Chair at Mt. Hope High School is proud to share the names of our 2011-2012 All-State Musicians from Mt. Hope High School:

Chorus Carl J Gerhard, Sarah Fillipino, Thomas Hanson, Rick Souza, Timothy Tarantelli

Band Tyler Barboza, Nicolas Dion, Brenden Barboza, Elisabeth Iacono, John Hunt, Joshua Conti

Mrs. Arsenault delivered a message from Mr. Robert Arsenault, who wished to inform the Committee that at least four of the All-State Musicians are members of the Jazz Band, which practices only on Mondays; he asked that Mrs. Arsenault accept the recognition for those students and he thanked the Committee for acknowledging the musicians.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM

Bodacious Bee

Mr. Jock Hayes of the Bristol Warren Education Foundation unexpectedly could not address the Committee about the upcoming Bodacious Bee, but will do so at a future meeting. The Committee is developing a team which perhaps Mrs. Rancourt will lead since she has placed second in the Bee in the past.

Mrs. Susan Rancourt

Mrs. Rancourt informed the Committee and Administration that it has come to her attention a member of the School Committee has committed what Mrs. Rancourt believes is a breach of ethics. This member disseminated information of hers that was not this member's to reveal or discuss. Because of this breach, Mrs. Rancourt no longer trusts this member and does not want her seated next to her. Mrs. Rancourt, for the record, expressed disappointment with her breach and her refusal to rectify the situation. Mrs. Campbell then stated she believes the alleged breach may have happened in Mrs. Campbell's

home, which impugns her own ethics; Mrs. Campbell guaranteed no such breech happened.

Mr. O'Dell asked if Mrs. Rancourt's comments were made as a member of the public or the School Committee. Mr. Bento responded the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell motioned to approve the consent agenda. Mrs. McBride seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

MOTION: Mrs. Campbell motioned to seal the minutes to the December 12, 2011 and January 9, 2012 Executive Sessions; Mr. Saviano seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

BUDGET FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. O'Dell said their meeting last Tuesday was interesting and somewhat unusual; after a week of digesting the proceedings, Mr. O'Dell feels it went well. Mr. O'Dell had invited Mr. David Barboza, Chair of the Joint Finance Committee, to the meeting and was pleased that he came because in the past, invitations to elected officials have always been declined. Mr. Barboza made his statements in light of his position as Chair of Joint Finance, and Mr. O'Dell represented his own position; there was no disagreement, just a representation of positions, a productive step forward. Mr. O'Dell

will review the budget numbers with the Director of Administration and Finance on January 31st; the Subcommittee will take a first look at the budget on Tuesday, February 7, and meet for their regularly scheduled meeting on February 21st. Mr. Barboza agreed to attend both these Subcommittee meetings. Mr. O'Dell said the Subcommittee meetings are becoming more critical since Joint Finance is leaning toward one meeting this year. Mrs. Campbell commented the February meetings are a great opportunity for the public to see the reality of the numbers and how the goals of the Superintendent are to move the District in a positive direction while maintaining strict control over the budget. The meetings will start at 6:30 PM. Mr. Bento asked Mr. O'Dell to pass on to the Chair of Joint Finance that one meeting is insufficient to make a decision on the education of the children of this District; he feels there should be two meetings. Mr. O'Dell will oblige.

POLICY/ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Arsenault reported their next meeting is Monday, February 6 at 5:30 PM at Oliver; the agenda will include review of the search and seizure policy, discussion of a policy on the evaluation of all staff (assure alignment with new system being piloted in the state), and discussion on the ethics policy for staff and administration. Mrs. Campbell alerted Mrs. Arsenault that the Wellness Committee will have an updated Wellness Policy for the Policy Subcommittee for their June meeting.

PERSONNEL/ CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Saviano said one last mediation session is scheduled for this Thursday, this after an impasse had been declared a few weeks ago; there are great hopes for an agreement. Mrs. Campbell asked about the Superintendent's evaluation data; Mr. Saviano said discussion with the Policy Subcommittee will take place in March and with the full Committee in April. Although Mrs. Thies was hoping to have this completed this past fall so she could adjust her goals for this year with input from the Committee, NECAP scores are coming out in the first week of February so this timeline seems logical; she is agreeable to either open or closed session.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Campbell announced one of their goals is to make this year's Wellness Week, April 30 to May 4, the best celebration; they would like to bring parents into the celebration and the wellness message to the Towns. Dr. Andrade has asked the principals for ideas for celebrations; Mrs. Campbell asked anyone from the public who has any ideas to get them to her by March 1. In response to Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Thies said dental services are still provided to students in Title I schools; we also have partnered with a local dentist who comes to talk to second graders about oral hygiene. Mrs. Silva proudly informed the Committee that each of our elementary schools received

the Bronze Award and \$500 from the USDA.

Mrs. McBride wished to remind the community that the District receives a few thousand dollars each year from clothes donations to the Kiducation drop box near Stop and Shop.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Mr. Bento reviewed some upcoming agenda items:

February Workshop – Superintendent's Evaluation

March – Budget

April – Focus on School Committee Goals

May – Liaison Reports

June – End of Year and Graduation

Chairman Bento has charged the Superintendent to report on her philosophy on Charter Schools and to welcome Roger Williams University's President Farish to a meeting. Mrs. Thies confirmed she reached out to President Farish to share his vision for RWU and how the District might partner with the University; we will plan an informal reception and formal presentation in March or April.

Lecture Series

Mrs. Thies is proud and excited to share a new partnership we are launching with the Bristol Warren Education Foundation, focusing on community outreach through a lecture series; the first lecture is February 29 at the Bristol Statehouse; the topic is Internet Safety and

the Use of Social Media by Adolescents. They are seeking input from parents and community members regarding topics of interest; lectures will be videotaped and posted on the District's website; the hope is to make our community a better place to raise our children. Mrs. Campbell added it is sponsored by the Voices of Bristol.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES

**Recommendation #S 2012-01, A-H: PERSONNEL – CONSENT
AGENDA**

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the position of Middle School Curriculum Coordinator as listed below:

1. Melissa Bernard Curriculum Coordinator (English/Language Arts and Social Studies-Kickemuit Middle

**Effective: January 9, 2012, for the remainder
of the 2011-12 school year only**

Reason: To fill a leave of absence vacancy

Funding: Operational Budget

B. BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to

appoint the following applicants to the School of the 21st Century, Before and After School Program, as listed below (pending sufficient enrollment to warrant running this program and DCYF CANTS clearance):

1. Kate Lynn Sweeney Child Care Site Coordinator (Part Time)

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of
the 2011-12 school year, pending
satisfactory completion of pre-
employment requirements**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

2. Joyce Speaker Child Care Site Coordinator (Part Time)

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of
the 2011-12 school year, pending
satisfactory completion of pre-
employment requirements**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

3. Shemseddine Chabane Child Care Intern (Part Time)

**Effective: Immediately, for the remainder of
the 2011-12 school year**

Reason: To fill a vacancy

Funding: Parent Fees/Self-Sufficient

C. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the extracurricular positions listed below for the 2011-12 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

SPRING COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

- 1. Lacrosse (Girls) Asst. Coach Shayla Walden ***
- 2. Track (Outdoor) Head Coach Andrew Sabourin**
- 3. Track (Outdoor) Asst. Coach Jeffrey Blanchet**
- 4. Unified Basketball ** Head Coach Tom Fullen**

ADVISORS

- 5. Interact Club Jennifer Cupolo**

WELLNESS CENTER SUPERVISORS – KICKEMUIT MIDDLE

- 6. Supervisor (Winter) Laurie Cadman**

*** Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

**** Funded by Special Olympics RI**

D. MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM: That the School

Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals for the 2011-12 session only of the Kickemuit Middle School Extended Day Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Position

- 1. Elizabeth Chagnon English/Language Arts Teacher**
- 2. Patricia Fillipino Science Teacher**
- 3. Brett Kearns Social Studies Teacher**

E. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Kristin N. Carbone Mathematics**
- 2. Edward O. Cyr General Subject Matter**
- 3. Maureen C. Forte Elementary/Social Business**
- 4. Jolene F. Hamil-Cole English/Reading Specialist**
- 5. Alisha M. Hunter General Subject Matter**
- 6. Eileen K. Kenney Registered Nurse**
- 7. Katherine A. Mauro Elementary**
- 8. Lisa M. Medeiros Elementary/Sp.Ed.**
- 9. Scott J. Nalibow General Subject Matter**
- 10. Alexandria Teixeira General Subject Matter**

11. Carolyn H. Thomas Library Science

12. Diane D. Walsh School Nurse

F. CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following application for a classified substitute pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE

1. Nelson J. Matos

G. LEAVES OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant leaves of absence for an Elementary Teacher and a Mathematics Intervention Specialist as follows:

1. Vanessa M. Cronan Grade Five Teacher - Guiteras

Effective: March 28, 2012, for 6-8 weeks

Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with

Article 21, Section L1 of the Master

Agreement

2. Sara Bogdon Mathematics Intervention Specialist - Oliver

Effective: February 28, 2012, for 6-8 weeks

**Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with
Article 21, Section L1 of the Master
Agreement**

H. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations of Ronald J. Silva from the positions of Head Football and Unified Basketball Coach and Zachary Fenster from the position of Child Care Provider as listed below:

**1. Ronald J. Silva Head Football and Unified Basketball Coach -
Mt. Hope High
Effective: Immediately
Reason: Personal**

**2. Zachary Fenster Child Care Provider
Effective: Immediately
Reason: Personal**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:05 PM

MOTION: In accordance with open meetings law 42-26-5(a)(2), at 8:05 PM Mrs. McBride motioned to go into Executive Session for an update on collective bargaining. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Arsenault will recuse herself from this discussion.

The Chair announced that no action will be taken during Executive Session or when open session resumes.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 8:33 PM

Mr. Bento reported that in Executive Session the School Committee was updated on collective bargaining. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:34 PM

MOTION: There being no further business to discuss, Mrs. McBride, seconded by Mr. O'Dell, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/c